

Involving Community Partners

Compiled by Kyle Nobbe, Math Teacher at Purcell Marian High School

General Tips:

- ✓ Integrate your school garden into MANY facets of the school
- ✓ Elevate the garden from a novelty to a vital teaching tool that helps teachers meet state standards
- ✓ Look for local groups who have expertise and resources you need: local hardware stores, local greenhouses, local nurseries, local landscapers, local businesses, etc.
- ✓ Focus on service learning opportunities where the community can be involved
- ✓ How can the garden help other teachers? Can it be used for the afterschool clubs (e.g. cooking club)? Team fundraisers (e.g. ingredients for athletic bake sales)
- ✓ Remember you reap what you sow, if you want other teachers to help with the garden you must offer them a benefit!
- ✓ Conduct an analysis of your current strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (S.W.O.T.—see example below)

SWOT Analysis

	Helpful	Harmful
Internal	<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative faculty • High Interest • Strong relationships • Enthusiastic students • Good PR in community 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheduling conflicts • Garden seems a novelty • Experience in gardening • No long term plan • Lack of communication within school
External	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clubs in community • Service Coordinator • Centrally located • Involved Benefactors/Volunteers • Possible grants 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State testing • Time • School Calendar • Vandalism